

## **Coastal Explorations Series - Spring 2008**

### **Nemours Plantation of the ACE Basin**

Speaker: Ernie Wiggers, Manager of Nemours Wildlife Foundation and Jeff Mollenhauer, South Carolina Audubon Director of Conservation

Date: February 14th

Time: 9:00 am to mid-afternoon (bring lunch)

Location: Nemours Plantation, Gardens Corner

Capacity: 20 people

Components: Much of the Ashepoo, Combahee, and Edisto Rivers (ACE) Basin Project Area is composed of plantations which utilize the river systems for cultivation. These plantations are host to abundant wildlife and unique cultural heritage. Join us to tour one of the primary plantations of the ACE Basin, Nemours Plantation. Ernie Wiggers will host the tour as the manager for the Nemours Wildlife Foundation. Jeff Mollenhauer will act as our participating bird expert representing the South Carolina Audubon. This outing will focus on management of plantation impoundments and the use of these areas by shorebirds.

### **Life on an Un-fished Artificial Reef**

Speaker: Mike Arendt

Date: February 20th

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Fort Johnson, Marine Resource Division, James Island

Capacity: Auditorium Max

Components: Principal Investigator Mike Arendt will discuss changes in the seasonal and annual occurrence of selected fish species at a small un-fished artificial reef. Although the ability to locate and subsequently catch fish has improved greatly over the years, often requiring stricter harvesting regulations to prevent over-fishing, natural factors also influence the ability to catch fish on a given day or a given time of day, and should also be considered when evaluating the viability of fish populations. Since 1999, the SCDNR has collaborated with researchers at the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography to remotely record video observations and oceanic conditions at a 'secret' artificial reef located approximately 40 nm offshore from Savannah, GA. This presentation will feature some amazing video clips which document the potential of remote underwater video to study marine life under natural conditions, as well as demonstrate the importance of oceanic conditions in determining the ability to observe, and perhaps catch, some fishes.

### **Birding in Bear Island**

Speakers: Dean Harrigal and Pete Laurie

Date: February 29<sup>th</sup>

Time: morning (time TBD)

Location: Bear Island Wildlife Management Area, ACE Basin

Capacity: 20people

Components: Tour the Bear Island WMA with an emphasis on birding. Wetland impoundments and various habitats exists within Bear Island and make this area a bird

watchers paradise. Participants will travel in hay ride style as they will be pulled in an open trailer with bench seating. Both Dean Harrigal and Pete Laurie are knowledgeable on wildlife management techniques utilized within the area as well as bird life which may be found.

### **Green Homes: Making An Energy Efficient Home**

Speakers: Rebekah Szivak, Mike Arendt, Jason Powers and Kim Counts

Date: March 26<sup>th</sup>

Time: 6:30 pm

Location: Fort Johnson, Marine Resource Division, James Island

Capacity: Auditorium Max

Components: With increasing energy prices and heightened concerns regarding global warming, home efficiency gains importance in our everyday lives. Join us for an evening lecture which highlights simple ways to increase your home efficiency. Learn how to decrease your monthly energy bills while also behaving as a good steward to the environment.

### **History of Fort Johnson**

Speaker: Russell Horres, Skipper Keith

Date: April 16th

Time: 6:00 pm

Location: Fort Johnson, James Island (beginning in marine auditorium)

Capacity: 30 people

Components: Fort Johnson is located on James Island and faces the mouth of the Charleston harbor. In modern times, this site is home to various state and federal agencies employing over 500 people in the sciences. In the past, significant wartime activity took place at the Fort during both the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. Although the famed “first shot of the Civil War” was taken from this location, Fort Johnson is often a forgotten historic site. Participants will travel through time from the first shot to the final death of Fort Johnson. The lecture will conclude with a walking tour of points of interest which remain on the premises.

### **Discovering Hammock Islands**

Speaker: Billy McCord

Date: May 15th

Time: 10:00 am – 1:00 pm (bring lunch)

Location: McKenzie Field Station, Bennett’s Point, ACE Basin

Capacity: 30 people

Components: South Carolina is home to approximately 3500 hammock islands which lay scattered in the salt marsh behind barrier islands. Billy McCord is a wildlife biologist for the DNR and has conducted ecological surveys on over 130 hammock islands. We will begin learning about McCord’s research in the classroom where participants will view a presentation exhibiting various data and photo images from surveyed islands. We will then board the SCDNR Educational Vessel *Discovery*, to take a closer look by water of a group of such islands.

**Animals of the Estuary**

Speaker: Kattie McMillan, Louis Heyward, Al Segars, Kim Counts

Date: May 29th

Time: 10:00 am – 1:00 pm (bring lunch)

Location: McKenzie Field Station, Bennett's Point, ACE Basin

Capacity: 30 people

Components: This event will take place aboard the Educational Vessel *Discovery*. We will travel into the ACE Basin and deploy a trawl net; miniature to that used by commercial shrimpers. Participating speakers will identify the animals caught in the trawl and discuss various adaptations which allow these animals to survive an estuarine existence. We will also look into the significance of the salt marsh and the important role it plays to the health and safety of coastal South Carolina.